



MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2019

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- We have a very active dredge fishery, and boats are hauling in good catches of quahogs, oysters and blood clams. With the current elevated price of quahogs, many boats are focusing on that, frequently landing their daily limits.
- Given the hot summer perhaps and the vibrio control plan, we have seen a significant drop in the number of commercial intertidal oyster harvesters, although for negative tides, we have documented activity out on the West Side.
- On July 23, the Selectboard approved a one-year domicile requirement to be eligible for a commercial shellfishing permit or to be named to a grant license. It also approved the opening of Lieutenant Island South (Audubon area) to the harvest of clams. No oystering will be allowed.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 120 bushels of oysters, more than 120 bushels of quahogs (up from the June harvest of 95) and 65+ bushels of blood clams as tracked on commercial patrol.
- Recreational shellfish permit sales for July were 27 Annual Resident, 46 Annual Senior Resident, 20 Seasonal Resident, and 42 Seasonal Non-Resident. Revenue totaled \$6,920, bringing the total number of recreational permits sold to date up to 784 = \$38,680.
- We estimate that more than 60 bushels of oysters and 14 bushels of quahogs were harvested by recreational harvesters this month from Indian Neck. The oyster harvest is an amazing stat!
- Total shellfish department revenues to date in 2019 are \$81,081 in shellfishing permit sales and \$4,480 in annual grant license fees = \$85,498.00.

Enforcement

- There were numerous complaints by beachgoers of dogs on the beach at Burton Baker Landing Beach the first week of the month. Signage is in place, however, this continues to be a problem. The involved party was identified, and Constable Civetta spoke with him in person. He subsequently complied with the regulation. A complaint about a dog near the Old Wharf Point grants was received from a grantholder.
- Enforcement began with grant holders culling in Chipman's Cove to ensure no shack or product is dumped there, but rather either taken back to their grant or to the transfer station.
- A use-it-or-lose-it meeting was held with two Egg Island grantholders. A memo of understanding was sent to them about expectations and timeline.
- The idea that a recreational permit is a family permit continues to be an issue at Indian Neck. Offending parties have continued to be educated, except in the case of children helping for the experience, or companions helping the elderly.
- Multiple seed warnings were given to recreational harvesters.
- A family of vacationers renting a house in Wellfleet were caught poaching shellfish off grants on Egg Island. They were escorted to return the product and educated on the error of their ways.
- Ice checks during the month on commercial shellfishermen warranted a few verbal warnings to come into compliance with vibrio protocols.
- A bushel and a half of bagged and untagged quahogs was confiscated after being abandoned on the Pier overnight. They were returned to the wild in the closed area off Indian Neck.
- Tagging compliance has increased, however one citation was issued to a commercial fisherman for a tagging violation in addition to a written warning about state's time-to-market allowances.

State and Town Relations

- Deputy Constable Chris Manulla assisted Emergency Medical Services in their response to an injured woman on Mayo Beach. He and Assistant Constable Johnny Mankevetch pulled out the tow truck that had gotten stuck in the sand while towing out her car. They weren't named Deputy Constables of the Year for nothin'!
- The Mass. Department of Marine Fisheries visited on July 9th to explore the closure of Wellfleet Harbor to the harvesting of horseshoe crabs. Civetta escorted them around the flats and to speak with Barbara Austin, who was chair of the Shellfish Advisory Board when Wellfleet has petitioned for this a few years ago.
- Coastal Engineering began surveying the HDYLTA Trust area on July 22nd.
- Civetta attended the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting to share information about the Shellfishing Chapter that had been worked on by her and Brian Carlson.
- Civetta attended a Wastewater Committee meeting with state Dept. of Environmental Protection staff. She provided Scott Horsley with Wellfleet 2012-2016 shellfish landings data.
- Civetta attended a Marina Advisory Committee meeting re: overwintering of aquaculture gear.
- Civetta attended a Wellfleet OysterFest department heads meeting.

Propagation

- Wellfleet Shellfish Department is pleased to report the following propagation efforts between May and July:
 - We put 250 bushels of quahogs from the contaminated relay in Chipman's Cove and another 150 at the Indian Neck recreational only area.
 - We planted 335,000 R8 oysters on our propagation bed.
 - We planted 200,000 quahog seed under nets.
 - We distributed more than 500,000 pounds of whole sea clam shell as cultch around the harbor with our new barge.
 - We broadcast tens of thousands of overwintered oysters around the harbor.
 - We placed sepa bags filled with whole sea clam shell in Chipman's Cove as a spat collecting experiment.
 - We engaged eight recreational shellfishing permit holder volunteers on multiple occasions and held four AmeriCorps project days to help us execute this work.
 - We received 10 truckloads of whole sea clam shell for next year's cultching efforts at \$1,000 a load. The shell company offered to give us another nine loads for FREE if we paid for an additional one, so we will be getting 10 more (thanks to SPAT grant)!
- The Department finished the season's cultching efforts on July 10th after six weeks of steady effort. We had a few interruptions due to the spreader, but the new barge was terrific. We owe a large debt of gratitude to the DPW for its technical support and allocation of staff resources.
- We continued to receive more deliveries of sea clam cultch for our 2020 cultching efforts.
- We organized a group of volunteers we call "Johnny's Crew" to help our propagation activities.
- We broadcasted approximately 52,000 oysters from 2018 around the harbor.
- We hosted an AmeriCorps project day to put out sepa bags in Chipman's Cove filled with sea clam shell. These will hopefully catch some of the oyster set over the summer. They also swept our clam nets on the bed.

Education and Public Relations

- Civetta hosted an Audubon camp group at Indian Neck and educated them about different kinds of local shellfish, measuring oysters and clams and other shellfish fun facts.
- Civetta attended the AmeriCorps graduation ceremony at Cape Cod Community College.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable